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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,358	01/27/2001	Randall F. Hornick	17243-00035	6083
7590	03/06/2006		EXAMINER	KRISCIUNAS, LINDA MARY
John S. Beulick Armstrong Teasdale LLP One Metropolitan Sq., Suite 2600 St. Louis, MO 63102			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/771,358	HORNICK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Linda Krisciunas	3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3,5-18,20-42,48,49,51-54,61-70 and 75-78 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-18,20-42,48,49,51-54,61-70 and 75-78 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 8, 2006 has been entered.
2. This is a Non-Final Office Action in response to the Applicant's Request for Continued Examination (RCE) dated February 8, 2006. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 20-42, 48-49, 51-54, 61-70 and 75-78. Claims 4, 19, 43-47, 50, 55-60 and 71-74 are canceled. A new Examiner, Linda Krisciunas, will review the RCE.

Response to Amendment

3. The Examiner notes the changes to claims 2-3, 6-7, 9, 11-14, 16-17, 21, 26, 28-29, 32-34, 36, 39, 41, 63 and 70 or the change to their respective independent claim and the 112 second paragraph rejections are withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

4. The arguments are moot with respect to the new grounds of rejection listed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 20-42, 48-49, 51-53, 61-65, 67-70 and 75-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Libman (US 5,987,434) in view of Fredell et al (US 6,678,698).

As per claims 1, 16, 31, 48, 61 and 67, Libman teaches a method for managing a deal process using a server system coupled to a database and in communication with a client system, the server associated with a business entity engaged in a business of offering at least one of products and services to prospective customers (See Figure 2 where the Core System communicates with the Administrative and Support System and the Service companies offer products to the clients. See column 7, lines 15-32.), said method comprising the steps of: prompting a user associated with the business entity to create a business profile at the server system for storing within the database (column 6, lines 42-45, where the user inputs information which is equivalent to a business profile as it performs an identical function in substantially the same manner with substantially the same results.), the business profile includes permissions granted to each user associated with the business entity for accessing information stored within the database (column 6, lines 42-45, where decision criteria and module instructions are also entered which is equivalent to permissions as it performs an identical function in substantially the same manner with substantially the same results.); identifying at least one prospective customer of the business entity (column 8, lines 49- column 9, lines 40, where the client record contains customer information such that the business can identify the particular client based upon the provided information); creating at least one

of a web page and a portal customized (column 8, lines 1-3, where the internet may be utilized with the invention, which would include web pages and/or portals) for attracting the at least one identified prospective customer to a deal proposed by the business entity including purchasing at least one of a product and service offered by the business entity (See The Virtual Agent Module, column 10, lines 42-55 where the module analyzes the client information and selects the product most suited to the client per the client record information.), the proposed deal is specifically targeted by the business entity to the identified prospective customer and includes at least one of a loan, a lease, an equity stake, and a common equity (column 9, lines 60-65, where various financial products may be used with the application or any type of client information that is used in a client database.), wherein the at least one customized web page and portal stored within the database (See Figure 2, where the Virtual Agent Module interacts with the Database Module which contains the client records and the various internet based interactions as noted in column 8, lines 1-3); accessing the server system by the prospective customer by displaying on the client system the at least one of the web page and portal customized for attracting the prospective customer to the proposed deal (See The Telemarketing Module, column 19, lines 38-57, where the operator logs in to the system and communication between the operator and client takes place.); prompting a user associated with the business entity to create a deal and a deal library at the server system after the prospective customer has accessed the server system and selected a proposed deal (See Figure 9 where based upon the client record information, various products are offered as choice 1 or choice 2. See column 13, lines

27-41.); designating the prospective customer as a customer of the business entity within the server system (Column 13, lines 2-11, where the client record is analyzed and the specific client need is determined. If there is a product to be offered to the client based upon the need, the client would inherently be considered a customer.), the deal created at the server representing a financial transaction between the customer and the business entity (See Figure 9, where the Product Decision of plans would be equivalent to a deal as it performs an identical function in substantially the same manner with substantially the same results. See column 9, lines 43-49.), the deal library representing a portion of the database for storing documents created as part of the financial transaction (The deal library would be equivalent to the database of plans that are used for selection purposes, see column 9, lines 50-59.). Libman does not explicitly teach assigning members, granting permissions, assigning tasks and milestones and tracking task status. Fredell teaches that it is known to assign members to a deal team for the deal between the business entity and the customer, the deal team member include users associated with the business entity who will perform tasks for completing the deal (col. 4, lines 32-59 and col. 15, lines 15-40, Fredell et al. teach suitable projects involve financial or M&A transactions. The Acquisition Trustee System allows individuals to be grouped into multiple work teams and provides an on-line directory of project participants including standard demographics, their position on the team as a project manager or basic contributors, and their access to different systems areas. The Examiner interprets the participants are assigned.), assign the customer to the deal team and enabling a user associated with the business entity to grant permissions to

the customer for accessing specific documents stored in the deal library corresponding with the deal for the customer and other information stored in the database (col. 4, lines 32-59, col. 7, lines 47-51 and col. 15, lines 15-40, Fredell et al. teach suitable projects involve financial or M&A transactions. The Acquisition Trustee System allows individuals to be grouped into multiple work teams and provides an on-line directory of project participants including standard demographics, their position on the team as a project manager or basic contributors, and their access to different systems areas. The viewer prompts the user to input one or more passwords or identifications which is recognized by either an authorized editor module or an authorized reader module in order to access information on a database. The Examiner interprets the participants are assigned to include the customer); assigning at the server system tasks and milestones to be performed by the deal team members for completing the deal (col. 15, lines 15-46, Fredell et al. teach the Acquisition Trustee System provides the ability for a project manager to create, assign, and reassign tasks to project participants); notifying the deal team members of the assigned tasks to be performed and milestones (col. 15, lines 15-67, Fredell et al. teach the Acquisition Trustee System provides the capability for a user to see a list of their tasks with the task description, status, and due date and provides notification that let people know when tasks are about to become overdue); tracking each task and milestone for completing the deal and enabling the customer to monitor the progress of the deal by displaying on the client system a status of the deal including the tasks and milestones associated with the deal (col. 15, lines 15-67, Fredell et al. teach the Acquisition Trustee System provides a project status overview that gives a

user a snapshot of the project as it applies to them and their role in the process; provides the capability for a user to see a list of their tasks with the task description, status, and due date; and provides the project manager with an interface that allows them to see all of the tasks and current task status.). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the permission granting, task assignment, milestone and status tracking features of Fredell to provide a more user-friendly and efficient system for managing the information which also allows the interaction of the customer.

As per claims 2, 17, and 32, Libman does not explicitly teach the step of setting authority levels. Fredell teaches that it is known to prompt a user to establish user accounts with authority levels of at least one of user, manager and administrator (Fredell et al.: col. 6, lines 21-26, Fredell et al. teach the person posting the document generally decides who gets access to that document and may add or change indexing information for the document. After the person posting the document has indicated who should receive access, the document will be instantly available to authorized project participant.). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the authority level feature of Fredell to provide a more secure system for managing the information.

As per claims 3, 18, and 33, Libman does not explicitly teach setting up divisions. Fredell teaches that it is known to prompt an administrator to set up a structure of divisions and sub-divisions for the business (Fredell et al.: col. 4, lines 13-31, Fredell et al. teach project managers may perform all of the interactions performed by other project participants, but they may also work in conjunction with the Network Service Provider administrator on project startup to allocate initial tasks and leverage historical information that the Network Service Provider may have archived from previously performed similar projects. The Network Service Provider administrator is responsible for setting up the system for a client and ensuring that the system is robust and fully functional). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the division features of Fredell to provide a more organized and user-friendly system for managing the information.

As per claims 5, 20, 34-35, 49, 62, 65, and 68, Libman does not explicitly teach various pages on the personalized web page. Fredell teaches that the step of displaying on the client system a personalized web page including at least one of an originator page, a prospect page, an intermediary page and a customer page, the personalized web page is created by the business entity and is personalized for the identified prospective customer (Fredell et al.: col. 4., lines 63-67 and col. 5, lines 22-34, Fredell et al. teach a network service provider provides a central node for each virtual network in a collection of virtual networks corresponding to a plurality of different projects or

transactions. The system provides a fully provisioned, turnkey service for users, e.g., financial firms, accounting firms, investment firms or other underwriting institutions.

Once the financial or other underwriting institution has established an account with the service provider, documents in electronic form can be uploaded to the secure site maintained by the service provider. The Examiner interprets this process to be the establishment of the originator page.). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the personalized web page feature of Fredell to provide a more personalized and user-friendly system for managing the information which also allows the interaction of the customer.

As per claims 6, 21 and 36, Libman does not explicitly teach creating a work group. Fredell teaches that it is known to display on the client system a personalized portal that prompts the prospective customer to create at least one of a work group, a my profile and a user profile (Fredell et al.: col. 5, lines 48-52, Fredell et al. teach the network service provider provides a secure virtual network (or "intranet") for the entities that support the secure electronic dissemination of confidential information documents, memoranda and related information and associated communications. The Examiner interprets the process to be establishing a work group.). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the

work group and profile features of Fredell to provide a more organized and efficient system for managing the information.

As per claims 7, 22 and 37, Libman does not explicitly teach a deal summary, timeline, menu or workspace. Fredell teaches that it is known to prompt a user to create at least one of a deal summary, a deal timeline, a deal menu, a deal workspace, a deal discussions area, a deal library and a deal profile (Fredell et al.: col. 3, lines 11-28, Fredell et al. teach an interface screen is configurable to identify a plurality of project tasks. The interface screen includes a data field for defining a respective time window over which each of said tasks is to be performed by at least one project participant. The Examiner interprets the time window to be a deal timeline.). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the deal features of Fredell to provide a more personalized, user-friendly and comprehensive system for managing the information.

As per claims 8 and 23, Libman does not explicitly teach channels. Fredell teaches that it is known to create a briefing page, including channels for both users associated with the business entity and users not associated with the business entity. (Fredell et al.: col. 4, lines 32-41, and col. 5, lines 48-52, Fredell et al. teach the process can be used for many types of communications between different parties that are associated for a temporary transaction or project, but as competitors or for other reasons, are not suitable for a permanent communications network (LAN or WAN) as

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might be used for a single government agency or single corporation. The network service provider provides a secure virtual network (or "intranet") for the entities that support the secure electronic dissemination of confidential information documents, memoranda and related information and associated communications). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the user channel features of Fredell to provide a more organized system for managing the information which allows the interaction of the customer.

As per claim 9, Libman does not explicitly teach a deal library. Fredell teaches that it is known to prompt a user to create a deal further comprises the step of building a library for the deal. (Fredell et al.: col. 3, lines 11-28, Fredell et al. teach storing project-related information including project documentation in a database). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the library feature of Fredell to provide a more organized system for managing the information.

As per claims 10 and 25, Libman does not explicitly teach notifying members of status. Fredell teaches that it is known to notify the deal team members further comprises the step of providing a deal status to deal team members (Fredell et al.: col. 2, lines 54-57, and col. 15, lines 18-20, Fredell et al. teach a method and system for

securely communicating and managing project information among multiple project participants. The system provides a project status that gives a user a snapshot of the project as it applies to them and their role in the process). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the status notification feature of Fredell to provide a more efficient and timely system for managing the information.

As per claims 11, 26, and 39, Libman does not explicitly teach prompting for feedback. Fredell teaches that it is known to notify the deal team members further comprises the step of prompting a user for feedback (Fredell et al.: col. 15, lines 29-36, Fredell et al. teach a shared discussion forum where project participants can raise and respond to project issues.). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the feedback feature of Fredell to provide a more personalized and comprehensive system for managing the information.

As per claims 12, 27-28, and 40-41, Libman does not explicitly teach profile searching. Fredell teaches that it is known to notify the deal team members further comprises the step of providing capability for at least one of a search of profiles of deal team members, a search across all businesses and a deal search, search results in a format specified by the user. (Fredell et al.: col. 3, lines 29-48, and col. 15, lines 37-41,

Fredell et al. teach an on-line directory of project participants including standard demographics, their position on the team as a project manager or basic contributor, and their access to different systems areas, such as scanned documents, but not task administration. The interface screen is configurable to identify a plurality of project tasks) Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the profile search feature of Fredell to provide a more efficient and user-friendly system for managing the information.

As per claims 13, 29, and 38, Libman does not explicitly teach prompting to create or modify a template. Fredell teaches that it is known to notify the deal team members further comprises the step of prompting a user to create or modify at least one of task templates for the deal and library templates for the deal. (Fredell et al.: col. 15, lines 44-48, Fredell et al. teach the ability for a project manager to create, assign, and reassign tasks to project participants, and a repository of standard task templates grouped by industry and by function). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the template feature of Fredell to provide a more efficient system for managing the information since templates reduce the time to fill out information.

As per claim 14, Libman does not explicitly teach creating a customer company profile. Fredell teaches that it is known to prompt a user to create a deal further comprises the step of prompting a user to create a customer company profile. (Fredell et al.: col. 3, lines 11-28, col. 4, lines 32-41, and col. 5, lines 48-52, Fredell et al. teach the method allows for storing project-related information including documentation in a database. The process can be used for many types of communications between different parties that are associated for a temporary transaction or project, but as competitors or for other reasons, are not suitable for a permanent communications network (LAN or WAN) as might be used for a single government agency or single corporation. The network service provider provides a secure virtual network (or "intranet") for the entities that support the secure electronic dissemination of confidential information documents, memoranda and related information and associated communications). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the company profile feature of Fredell to provide a more personalized and user-friendly system for managing the information.

As per claims 15 and 30, Libman does not explicitly teach an index used to track uploaded and downloaded files. Fredell teaches that it is known to prompt a user associated with the business entity to create or modify an index card used to track information regarding files uploaded and downloaded from a library of files stored within the database and assigned to the deal. (Fredell et al.: col. 11, lines 35-38 and col. 16,

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lines 5-7, Fredell et al. teach the system provides tracking of each document to allow the participants to see who has had access to the messages and documents and who has modified or edited any of the documents. As documents are revised, the system allows document revisions to be stored, e.g., provide an audit trail that track changes to task, documents, and issues). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the tracking feature of Fredell to provide a more timely and user-friendly system for managing the information.

As per claim 24, Libman does not explicitly teach assigning tasks for members. Fredell teaches that it is known to assign tasks for members of the deal team. (Fredell et al., col. 15, lines 44-45, and col. 16, lines 28-30, Fredell et al. teach the ability for a project manager to create, assign, and reassign tasks to project participants. When implemented on a computer, the computer program code segments configure the computer to create specific logic circuits or processing modules). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the task assignment feature of Fredell to provide a more comprehensive and efficient system for managing the information.

As per claim 42, this is a combination of claims 13 and 15 and has already been addressed.

As per claim 51, this is a combination of claims 13 and 16 and has already been addressed.

As per claim 69, Libman does not explicitly teach selectable links. Fredell teaches that it is known to display a selectable link to at least one of a message center, a company tools and tours screen, a case studies screen, a spotlight feature screen and a resources screen. (see Fredell et al column 6, lines 60-67 and column 11, lines 39-46, where there are “clickable hyperlinks (110)” that provide access to on-line documents) Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the selectable link feature of Fredell to provide a more user-friendly and easy-to-use system for managing the information.

As per claim 70, Libman does not explicitly teach tracking the web pages. Fredell teaches that it is known that a home page activity report page indicates which prospective customers are accessing the prospect web pages, how often the page is accessed, and which tools are being accessed. (Fredell et al.: col. 6, lines 6-26, col. 11, lines 35-38 and col. 15, line 15 to col. 16, line 7, Fredell et al. teach the person posting the documents generally decides who gets access to that document and may add or change indexing information for the document. After the person posting the document has indicated who should receive access, the document will be instantly available to any authorized project participants. The Acquisition Trustee system provides a project status overview that gives a user a snapshot of the project as it applies to them and

their role in the process. Project managers with an interface are allowed to see all of the tasks and current task status. The system provides tracking of each document to allow the participants to see who has had access to the messages and documents and who has modified or edited any of the documents. As documents are revised, the system allows document revisions to be stored, e.g., provide an audit trail that tracks changes to task, documents, and issues. Whereby the tracking would determine which prospective customers are accessing the prospect web pages, how often the page is accessed, and which tools are being accessed). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the tracking feature of Fredell to provide a more comprehensive and efficient system for managing the information.

As per claims 75-78, Libman does not explicitly teach storing documents and assigning permissions. Fredell teaches that it is known to store documents associated with the deal in a library within the database specifically assigned to the deal (Fredell et al.: col. 6, lines 6-26 and col. 7, lines 56-58, Fredell et al. teach a network service provider administrator or project participant using the system interacts with the system to load documents into a database as self-contained document files. A storing step allows the storing of project related information for each of the plurality of distinct projects in a database); and enable a user associated with the business entity to grant permissions to the customer for accessing specific documents stored within the deal

library such that the customer can monitor the progress. (Fredell et al.: col. 6, lines 6-26, col. 11, lines 35-38 and col. 15, line 15 to col. 16, line 7, Fredell et al. teach the person posting the documents generally decides who gets access to that document and may add or change indexing information for the document. After the person posting the document has indicated who should receive access, the document will be instantly available to any authorized project participants. The Acquisition Trustee system provides a project status overview that gives a user a snapshot of the project as it applies to them and their role in the process. Project managers with an interface are allowed to see all of the tasks and current task status. The system provides tracking of each document to allow the participants to see who has had access to the messages and documents and who has modified or edited any of the documents. As documents are revised, the system allows document revisions to be stored, e.g., provide an audit trail that tracks changes to tasks, documents, and issues). Fredell is an analogous art as it also teaches managing information with respect to managing and marketing new projects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the management system of Libman with the document storage and permissions feature of Fredell to provide a more personalized and user-friendly system for managing the information.

7. Claims 54 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Libman.

As per claims 54 and 66, Libman does not explicitly teach the step of assigning members to a deal team further comprises the step of causing a user profile pop-up

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window to be displayed. Official notice is taken that it is well known that "windows" "pop-up" in software applications when items are selected. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Libman with a pop-up window feature to make the system more user-friendly and easy to use.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following art also teaches about managing customer-based programs: Broadbent et al (US 6,985,886), Levine et al (US 6,233,566), Heffner et al (US 2003/0018558), Golden et al (US 2002/0038285), "E-mazing Broker Tools: Confused by technology? Here are some new hardware" by Ellen Jovine, Securities Data Publishing, July 1, 2000; "e4close.com Lendingtree in co-branded mortgage svc pact", BridgeNews Global Markets, Newswire, March 29, 2000; "VerticalNet Named Technology Provider for MortgageRamp", PR Newswire, January 10, 2001; "LendingTree launches Lend-X real estate suite", PR Newswire, November 10, 2000; "Cover Story: Finding your next mortgage" by Joe Catalano, Newsday, November 19, 1999; and "LendingTree Inc is the leader in online lending solutions", PR Newswire, October 24, 2000.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linda Krisciunas whose telephone number is 571-272-6931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LMK

LMK

February 28, 2006



TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600